

McGuckin: Crazy Woman or the Next American Heroine?

Commentary by J.J. Johnson 06.05.01

To a woman who was arrested on charges that can only be described as 'dubious', tens of thousands across the nation hoped, prayed, and even sent in funds for JoAnn McGuckin to make the unreasonable bail of \$100,000. We were on the line when the ruling came for her to be released on her own recognizance. We were all overjoyed.

When the word came: "She's not leaving the jail." My first thought was, "Is she crazy??" Then I heard myself answer:

"Yeah - crazy like a fox."

In the novel "[Cracking the Liberty Bell](#)", a famous line was stated more than once: "Sometimes you gotta be a little bit crazy to beat crazy people. Sane people don't do the unexpected". This is exactly what has happened in Sandpoint, Idaho on Monday.

JoAnn McGuckin has effectively taken a page from the Civil Rights movement, and took a stand on principle. Some won't dare call her anything but insane... but a woman still grieving over the loss of her husband, and the possibly of her children being stolen from her, sends words from jail in northern Idaho that speaks for millions Americans:

"...The state needs to learn its place -- and that is not in family business. I do not accept the charges to begin with. It will be up to them to explain their behavior to everyone because it affects us all. May the public demand some answers as well.

"May the family be protected forever and ever. May they (authorities) be punished for their imposition, but may affairs of the heart be the purview of love within the house and may they never be confused."

"The Constitution of the United States of America supports this premise..."

Those will sound like insane words only to those who are already... insane.

These were the words of a mother whose children were raised on such principles as to openly defy what many people believe was a blatantly unlawful assault on not just the McGuckins, but the American Family as a whole. The McGuckin children did what most parents would expect their children to do if trouble was outside - stay put until they heard word from their mother.

It is something that has been lost upon local, state and federal governments. This nation and its Constitution was built on principles they dictate. There is a higher sovereignty than government itself. That is the sovereignty of **family**.

An analysis of JoAnn McGuckin's refusal to sign documents out of principle, leave jail a 'free



woman', along with her public statement, show another strategy beyond what anyone may have considered.

Most of the media pundits who failed to cover the [real side of the story](#) did all they could to show that JoAnn is insane. By refusing to sign the documents, she's demonstrated that she is aware of the charges facing her - that she is not insane, and she is competent to stand trial if necessary.

A jury trial over the charges on JoAnn would be all but pointless. It would be all but impossible to pool a jury that would convict her.

It also deflects the accusation that she is unfit to be a mother as the prosecution charges. By her refusing to leave free of cost, she is proving that she cares for her family so much she would stay in jail rather than being prohibited from being with them. As a contrast, the actions of the children during the past 5 days shows she raised them... to be just like her.

Rogue, so-called "watchdog organizations" will, of course, claim that some will use this stand by JoAnn as a rallying cry. They will only do so out of jealousy that they can't find any heroes on their side. They can only wish their mothers would do the same for them.

Each day JoAnn sits in jail on principle will only increase the outrage over the local government's actions....and maybe it should.

I am not a mother in Sandpoint, Idaho, but if I were, and knowing the love of a mother for her children, I think that I would have to consider marching to that jail, and demanding that I be incarcerated with her... for her "crime" is certainly not worse than mine would be, the "crime" of loving her children, of teaching her children to honor the Constitution, of raising her children to be Americans... and to expect no less from anyone elected or appointed to office! To require her to accept an order to stay away from those well-loved, well-taught, well-raised children in order to get out of jail now would be an even greater hardship than the one she now endures.

JoAnn McGuckin has nothing to lose by staying in jail. Perhaps neither do the rest of us.

And it's time for local governments across America to read the direct words of JoAnn McGuckin - **The state needs to learn its place -- and that is not in family business.**

Permission to reprint/republish granted, as long as you include the name of our site, the author, and our URL.
www.SierraTimes.com

All Sierra Times news reports, and all editorials are © 2001 SierraTimes.com (unless otherwise noted)

SierraTimes.com™ A Subsidiary of J.J. Johnson Enterprises, Inc.